

REMARKS

This Reply is submitted in response to the non-final Office Action dated August 7, 2008. Claims 1-8, 10-13, 15-20, 22-32, and 34-37 remain present in this application. In the present Office Action: claim 1 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2004/0103339 (hereinafter “Chalasani”); claims 1-10, 13-22, 25-34, and 37 were again rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 6,278,993 (hereinafter “Kumar”) in view of “The Physiology of the Grid” (hereinafter “Foster”) and in further view of U.S. Patent No. 6,408,336 (hereinafter “Schneider”); and claims 11, 12, 23, 24, 35, and 36 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 6,973,493 (hereinafter “Slaughter”) in view of Foster. Applicants have amended independent claims 1, 11, 13, 23, 25, 35, and 37 and canceled claims 9, 21, and 33. No new matter has been entered with the amendments to the claims. The amendments to the claims have, for the most part, essentially incorporated the subject matter of dependent claim 9 into the independent claims.

At the outset, Applicants again note that the term “operational rule” defines how a service request is handled or processed (see, for example, page 8, lines 1-3) and may come in various forms. For example, a first service node may provide a first operational rule to a second service node that defines how a first service request from the first service node (to the second service node) is processed by the second service node. Similarly, a third service node may provide a second operational rule to the second service node that defines how a second service request from the third service node (to the second service node) is processed by the second service node.

With respect to the rejection of independent claims 1, 13, 25, and 37, Applicants again respectfully submit that Kumar is merely directed to a function that tests returned electronic documents from a first search (initiated using a first search function and first search criteria) for a second search function. When the second search function is found, a form of the first search criteria is transferred to the second search function and documents (if any) that are found by the second search function are transferred to the first search function (see, for example, column 27, line 26 through column 28, line 16). This does not teach or suggest transmitting an operational rule from a first service node to a second service node that dictates how service requests from the first service node to the second service node are handled (processed). Moreover, the fact that Foster discloses an Open Grid Service Architecture (OGSA) and Schneider discloses the

implementation of access filters (that limit access to information) also does not teach or suggest (alone or in combination) transmitting an operational rule from a first service node to a second service node (OGSA or otherwise) that dictates how service requests from the first service node to the second service node are handled (processed). Additionally, with respect to independent claim 1, as claim 1 has been amended, the rejection based on Chalasani under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) is now moot. Moreover, Applicants note that Chalasani is commonly assigned to the Assignee of the present application and is not available as a prior art reference under 35 U.S.C. 103(c).

As neither Kumar, Schneider, nor Foster (alone or in combination) teach transmitting operational rules (that indicate how service requests are handled) from one node to another node, Applicants' independent claims 1, 13, 25, and 37 are allowable over the applied combination. In rejecting Applicants' prior arguments the Office Action stated "Kumar transmits information that indicates what the second search function is to search for. These 'rules' indicate how the search function is to operate (i.e. what is the goal of the search function)." While Applicant agrees that Kumar discloses a user entering a 'search term' and that the search term may be restructured to conform with rules of a search function, Applicants respectfully submit that Kumar does not also disclose the user providing information on how a search is to be performed. That is, Kumar does not teach or suggest transmitting an operational rule that specifies how a request for service is handled. Furthermore, neither Kumar, Schneider, nor Foster (alone or in combination) teach or suggest an operational rule that comprises a rule associated with at least one of security, error recovery, and business transaction terms/conditions associated with a request for service. With reference to the rejection of dependent claim 9, a search request that pertains to available flash bios (while arguably pertaining to security or error recovery of some system in which the flash bios may be implemented) does not teach or suggest an operational rule that includes a rule associated with security or error recovery associated with a request for service. That is, a search request that pertains to available flash bios does not teach or suggest providing a security level associated with a request for service or an error recovery associated with a request for service.

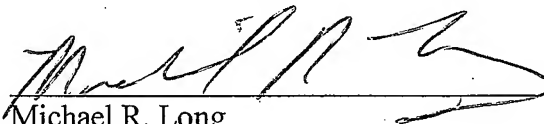
With respect to the rejection of independent claims 11, 23, and 35, Applicants again note that Slaughter is directed to negotiating how a service is provided between clients (see, for example, column 34, lines 43-48). This does also not teach or suggest transmitting an operational rule from a first service node to a second service node that dictates how a service request from the first service node to the second service node is handled. In response to

Applicants' prior argument the Office Action stated "Slaughter sends rules regarding the format that results are supposed to be returned in. This clearly impacts how the second node is going to provide the service, because the format of the output from the service is impacted by the rule." While Applicants are unsure of the context (due to the fact that the Examiner has not cited any particular passage), Applicants respectfully submit that even if Slaughter specifies a result format, specifying a result format does not teach or suggest providing operational rules on how the results are to be obtained. Moreover, the combination of Slaughter and Foster does not teach or suggest an operational rule that comprises a rule associated with at least one of security, error recovery, and business transaction terms/conditions associated with a request for service.

For at least the reasons set forth above, Applicants respectfully submit that Applicants' amended independent claims 1, 11, 13, 23, 25, 35, and 37 are allowable over the applied art of record. Additionally, Applicants respectfully submit that dependent claims 2-8, 10, 12, 15-20, 22, 24, 26-32, 34, and 36 are also allowable for at least the reason that the claims depend on allowable claims.

Prior to action on this Reply, Applicants request a telephone interview with the Examiner. The undersigned attorney may be reached at (512) 617-5521.

Respectfully submitted,



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